The Rambler Writes of Burnes Family Graves

IE bones of David Burnes, his wife, Anne, and their son James lie in Rock Creek cemetery. This interesting information has come to the Rambler in a letter from his friend, W. E. H. Merritt. Mr. Merritt says:

Seferring to your interesting story in today's paper, David Burnes, his wife and minor son are buried in Rock Creek Church cemetery. The graves are marked by three large and ancient slabs level with the ground. One is marked to the memory of David Burnes, esq., of Washington, who died in 1800. The second is marked with the name of Anne Burnes, wife (or consort) of David Burnes, died 1807. The third is marked with the name of James—I think—James Burnes, son of David Burnes, twenty years old. I have forgotten the date of his death as carved on the stone. Until I saw these three gravestones I did not know that David Burnes had any child but Marcia. I take it that in those days the death of a boy twenty years old would not give rise to any special notice in the few newspapers then existing unless some particular circumstance made the death a matter of unusual interest. As you said some time ago, newspaper space was then devoted to other matters. It is likely that in a few years the memory of the dead boy passed completely away. In the many accounts I have read of David Burnes, his daughter and the formation of the city of Washington I had never heard or read of buft the one child. It was a surprise to me this summer to find these graves, and one of them a son of David. I had often wondered why no mention was made of the resting place of David Eurnes, who of all the 'original proprietors' was most in notice and so much written of."

The records of Rock Creek cemetery will probably show that the remains of these members of the Burnes family were removed there from another cemetery or from two other cemeteries and that this removal was directed by Marcia Van Ness. The Hambler has not come upon any facts bearing on the funeral of David Burnes, will probably show that the remains of the sementeries of the Burnes family were removed there from another cemetery or from two other cemeteries and that this removal was directed by Marcia Van Ness. The Hambler has not come upon any facts bearing on the funeral of David Burnes, will probably show that the remains of the sementeries and that this removal intelligence of February 2, 1807, there was a notice that Mrs. Anne Burnes, will on Thursday evening her remains, attended by a number of her relatives and friends, were deposited in the family graveyard about five miles from this place." The third is marked with the name James-I think-James Burnes,

Some time ago, while pursuing the subject of David Burnes, his daughter Marcia and her husband, Gen. John P. Van Ness, the Rambler exemined the inventory of the household and personal effects of the general

mined the layentory of the household and personal effects of the general returned on April 29, 1846, by Cornsilus P. Van Ness, administrator, and Benjamin Ogic Tayloe and James Larned, appraisers appointed by the Ophnary Gourt of the District of Columbia. The personal property was appraised at \$51,082.9. From the previous of the present of the deministrator, on Tuesday, June 16, 1846, the Ramber of Columbia. The personal property was appraised at \$51,082.9. From the previous appraised at cabinet, etc., \$100; pier tables, \$50; one dosen chairs and cushions, \$36; sofa and cushions to match, \$46; mahogany sofa, \$20; center table and cover, \$10; piano, \$40; two marble vases, \$41; two marble vases (large), \$15; two footstools, \$10; fender and andirons, \$15; shovel, tongs and marble stand, \$2. In the parlor the appraisors found the carpet and border worth \$120; one bookcase, \$85; one bookcase (smaller), \$30; one bookstand, \$10; one case and stand, \$10; one center table, \$15; one chandeller, \$15; one convex mirror, \$25; mantel lamp and vases, \$10; window curtains, rods, etc., \$35; two armchairs, \$5; one dozen other chairs, \$24; fender, \$5; shovel, tongs, etc., \$15; andirons, \$10; cabinet case, medals, etc., \$65; portraits of Mrs. Blount and Mr. Middleton, \$100; large and small paintings and engravings, \$23; music stool, \$5; lamp, \$10, and three rocking chairs, \$36.

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The contents of the wine cellar seem to be disappointing. Down there the appraisers listed one bookcase, \$5; two paper cases, \$5; nine demijohns, \$6.75; long table and drawers, \$10; fender, \$3; seven casks sour wine, \$12; forty-one bottles of wine, \$10.

On Gen. Van Ness' farm, wherever that was, were listed 33 common sheep, at \$1.50 each; sundry hogs, 2 mules, 3 old horses, 1 pair of working oxen, 1 small bull, worth \$10; 5 yearling calves, 7 cows (small and thin), \$56; 2 cows with calves, \$20; 3 heifers, \$18; 2 young steers, \$12; wagon, ox cart, horse carts, plows and shovel. The enumeration of things on the farm is long and carefully made, but the foregoing is interesting as showthe foregoing is interesting as show-ing the price of live stock in the Dis-trict, or very close to the District, about seventy years ago.

Gen. Van Ness' library, of something more than 1,000 volumes, was appraised at \$664.13. The title of each book is given in the inventory, and in the sale that followed in June, 1846, this library, comprising many books that would now seem to be priceless, or at least of very great



NORTHWEST CORNER OF H AND 16TH STREETS, ABOUT WHERE THE ORIGINAL BURNES HOME STOOD BEFORE THE CITY WAS SURVEYED

price, was scattered among the homes of the old Washington families. A good many were bought by the Washington booksellers of that period, but hundreds of the books were bought by people both because they happened to want that particular book and because they wanted something as a souvenir of Gen. Van Ness, for the general was a popular man, not merelly because he was wealthy and a prominent citizen, but because he had that quality of good nature which makes and holds friends. The return of the administrator and appraisers also contains a long list of silverware, plated ware and the contents of the garden and the greenhouse.

As part of the personal estate of Gen. Van Ness the administrator also returned: "Bank stock, Metropolis Bank, nominal value \$49,875, market value \$39,900; 98 shares of Washington and Rockville Turnpike Company, \$653, about one-third of par value; 69 shares of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company; cost \$6,000, worth about \$2,400; slaves, Betty, quite old, no value; Julius, 25 years old, \$550; Simon, 60 years old, \$100; George, 32 years, \$550, and Sally, 60 years old, \$75"

In going through the results of the sale of Gen. Van Ness' goods at auc-

Gunton, Mr. Markoe, H. H. Holcombe, Mr. Tait, George Poe, jr.; J. B. H. Smith, S. L. Cole, F. Markoe, Mrs. Pritchard, Gen. Dix, W. B. Lewis, J. C. Wilson, E. W. Johnson. R. Keyworth, C. Alexander, E. S. Wright, F. A. Dickens, Miss McKnight, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Causton, Mrs. Wallach, T. Riggles, J. Pettibone, S. H. Loughlin, Mrs. Brent A. O. Cooke, B. Lancaster, Mrs. Brent, A. O. Cooke, B. Lancaster, Mrs. Brent, A. O. Cooke, B. Lancaster, Mrs. Page, Mr. Muncaster, Mr. Dumfrey, Mr. Drury and Mr. Smon. B. Homans was the auctioneer and the net sum obtained was \$2,455.70.

Gen. Van Ness' pew. No. 82, in St. John's Church, sold for \$55, his stock in the Bank of the Metropolis was bought by Alexander Ray and J. E. Dow and his Rockville turnpike stock was sold to Benjamin Ogle Tayloe for \$653.37.

Among the buyers of books out of the Van Ness library were: Peter Force, R. Greenhow, C. W. Catheart, H. P. Harvey, J. L. Chauncey, E. Burke, J. McGinniss, Z. W. Denham, W. M. Morrison, J. E. Norris, T. J. Johnson, J. M. Cutts, J. E. Dow, C. H. Carroll, Dr. Bohrer, H. L. Sylvester, P. R. Fendall, G. J. Abbott, J. C. Mc-Guire, C. Hibbs, Mr. Carusi, G. McDuell and S. A. Elliot.

The Rambler has said that the David Burnes cottage, which stood in Van Ness Park, now the Pan-American Square, was torn down in 1894. That statement is based upon the following taken from The Star of May 24 of that year: Among the buyers of books out of

of that year:

of that year:

Dayy Burnes' cottage, which has stood the storms since 1748, is no more. It was torm down yesterday by order of those engaged in laying out the Columbia Athletic Club's new grounds. In spite of its apparently dilapidated condition the structure required the most forcible handling to demolish. Down to the lowest brick in the foundation strong and united efforts were required to level it. It was allowed to stand until the last moment in the hope that it would not interfers with the various fields, but the necessity for its demolition became imperative. The venerators



The great house which stood in Van Ness square up to a few years ago may have been built at about the time of the marriage of Gen. Van Ness and Marcia Burnes. That would not the date of its construction near Ness and Marcia Burnes. That would put the date of its construction near 1802. Perhaps it was erected by Gen. Van Ness in anticipation of the marriage. The Rambler has not yet found any published account of the marriage of these two interesting persons, who were such prominent figures in the history of the young Washington. One might gather from the funeral discourse on Mrs. Yan Ness by Rev. William Hawley of St. John's Episcopal Church that the great house had been made ready for the reception of the newly wedded pair. He said:

"About this time (Marcia's return from school in Baltimore) the splendid dwelling on Mansion square sur-rounded with beautiful shrubbery and rounded with beautiful shrubbery and evergreens and all the variety of flowers of every hue and with everadmired woodbine and multi-flora creeping up its side, all throwing their rich perfume on the balmy atmosphere, was now prepared for the reception of the family, Leaving the cottage, which stands near this splendid mansion, under whose humble roof she had been born and nurtured and passed her infant years and

birthday. Rev. Mr. Hawley must have known all the facts.

known all the facts.

The building of the house is ascribed by Glenn Brown in his history of the capital to Benjamin H. Latrobe and the time of its building being set as 1812. Mr. Brown says: "While in Washington Latrobe designed St. John's Church, which stands at the corner of 16th and H streets, opposite Lafayette Square. In 1812 he designed the Van Ness mansion, one of the notable residences of the early days in Washington. He also designed Brentwood, a mansion of dignity and magnitude in the suburbs of the city in 1818, and the residence of Commodere Decatur, which is still standing on Lafayette square, but remodeled out of all semblance to its original appearance. The other residences mentioned still semaln, but in a dilapidated condition.

If the house was built from designs by Latrobe it was probably not built at the time of Marcia's marriage, for Latrobe was appointed architect of the Capitol in 1803 and most likely was not in Washington in 1802. What follows is from "The Documentary History of the Construction and Development of the United States Capitol Building and Grounds," published as a government document in 1804:

In 1803 Benjamin H. Latrobe was appointed by President Jefferson. He continued by serv. The building of the house is ascribed

as a government document in 1804:

In 1803 Benjamin H. Latrobe was appointed by Presideht Jefferson. He continued his service until 1817, with the exception of the period of the last war with Great Britain. He restored portions of the building destroyed during that war. Mr. Latrobe was born and educated in his profession in England, coming to America in 1796. While living in Philadelphia he designed and constructed many public buildings in that city. It is to his genius we owe the design and finish of the Senate chamber, now occupied by the Supreme Court, the old hall of representatives and the interior of the wings of the central building. Upon his resignation, in 1817, Charles Builfinch of Boston, Mass., was appointed his successor.

cesor.

As throwing some light on the personality of David Burnes, the Rambler recalls that Allen C. Clark, in his "Greenleaf and Law in the Capital City," makes mention of Mr. Burnes, and, turning the well-thumbed pages of that valuable book, he finds that Mr. Clark quotes Thomas P. Woodward of the Washington bar "as marishaling the worthles of the old city." The quotation from Mr. Woodward follows:

"As I work over the too many dry and musty records I often try to conjure up the personalities of the men whose acts and deeds I am investigating. I picture William Prout, the staid Baltimore merchant; Ben. Stoddert, the revolutionary soldier; Robert Morris, the great financier of the colonies; Samuel Blodgett, the lottery man; the Youngs, gentlemen to the manner born; David Burnes, suddenly thrown into unfamiliar company; James Greenleaf, the prince of schemers; Thomas Law, man of the world; George Walker, the canny Scotsman, and all the lesser lights, clad in the quaint costumes of the time, doing business as real estate brokers after the most approved methods."

Lying before the Rambler is a copy of Anne Hollingsworth Wharton's "Social Life of the Early Republic," and in it may be found the following, reference to Marcia Burnes, but not many of the facts for which the Rambler has been searching are in it:

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The years when Mr. Madison was Secretary of State were full of happiness to his wife, more so perhaps than her later life in the White House, which brought with it more care and responsibility. Mrs. Madison's younger sister, Anna, was with her during her early residence in Washington, bringing to her house the charm and variety of interests of young people, including the bevy of friends and their attendant cavaliers. Among the many girls who were to be met at Mrs. Madison's were Harriet Stoddert, Anne Randolph and the lovely Marcia Burnes, the daughter of old Davy Burnes, whose cottage stood until recently on 17th street near E,

At some time later the Rambler

admired woodbine and multi-flora creeping up its side, all throwing their rich perfume on the balmy atmosphere, was now prepared for the reception of the family. Leaving the cottage, which stands near this splendid mansion, under whose humble roof she had been born and nurtured and passed her infant years and youthful days, she now took possession of her new abode."

Not many facts are to be extracted from Dr. Hawley's description of the overgreens and woodbine, but it contains the inference that the house was built before and occupied immediately after the marriage on May 9, 1802, and George W. White, elected January 13, 1909, and still sitting at the mahog-

any desk. The vice presidents have been John T. Lenman, 1876; William Thompson, 1877-1891; Henry A. Willard, 1891-1897; S. W. Woodward, 1897-1909; O. H. P. Johnson, 1909 to date. The cashiers have been Alexander Kerr, 1814 to 1832; George Thomas, 1832 to 1839; Richard Smith, 1839 to 1864; Moses Kelly, 1884 to 1874; George H. B. White, 1875 to 1899; J Gales Moore, 1900 to 1909; George O. Walson, 1909, he being succeeded by C. F. Jacobsen.

THE SUGAR HABIT.

THE growth of the sugar-eating habit is one of the food romances of the world. The value and the food use of sugar cane have been known to certain races of mankind for many centuries. This plant was first introduced into Sicily by the Arabs early in the eighth century, the exact date as given by some historians being the year 703. From Sicily sugar cane was transported and transplanted to Africa, thence to Spain, and later its cultivation was begun all along the coast of the Mediterranean sea as well as on the islands and the borders of the Indian ocean.

During the middle ages in Europe sugar was to be found for sale only in the shops of the apothecaries. An ounce of this sweet was considered to be a large sale at one time, for it was then, one of the most costly things carried in the apothecary's stock. It was used to sweeten the medicines of that age, most of which were extremely bitter and the large majority of them nauseous. Nobody thought of using sugar on the table; besides, the habit of drinking tea and coffee had not been acquired in Europe. The principal table sweet was honey. The Crusaders found extensive sugar cane plantations in Tripoli, Mesopotamia, Syria, Antioch and Cyprus, and by the fourteenth century sugar cane was being cultivated in every part of the known world where the soil and climate were propitious.

Even under these conditions the use of sugar was limited in a way that the people of today would not easily understand, for the United States alone uses about 8,000,000,000 pounds a year. In 1830 the annual consumption of sugar in the United States available statistics the per capita consumption of sugar in the United States had risen to something over ninety pounds per year.

It is a curious matter that the first one of the most costly things carried in

ing to the latest available statistics the per capita consumption of sugar in the United States had risen to something over ninety pounds per year.

It is a curious matter that the first home of the sugar cane has not been determined and, so far as botanists know, it has never been found growing wild. The earliest reference to sugar which modern men have found is in the sacred books of the Hindoos.

Historians say that the sugar cane was introduced by Columbus in Canto Domlingo, that it spread from that island to Cuba and Mexico and that island to Cuba and Mexico and that the Portuguese introduced the cane into Brazil, bringing it from Madeira. Some authorities have said that sugar cane was introduced into Louisiana in 1751 by Jesuit priests, who had it brought from Santo Domlingo, while others give the date of the first planting of sugar cane in Louisiana as 1737 and make no reference to its having been brought in by the Jesuits. There has been a remarkable cheapening in the processes for producing sugar. Roughly, one-half of the sugar of the world, up to the outbreak of the war, was produced from cane and the other half from becis. The cane sugar belt reaches around the world on both sides of the equator, and is generally included between latitude 30 degrees north and 30 degrees south. The sugar beet belt lies only in the north temperate zone, the principal beet sugar countries being the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Austria.

The United States and Spain are the only countries which produce both cane and beet sugar in any considerable quantity. The development of the beet sugar industry in the United States has been one of the great agricultural and manufacturing growths of this country. From 1898 the beet sugar production in the United States increased from 50,000 tons to approximately 800,000 tons in 1915.

Sick of Kaiserism.

A GOVERNMENT official said at a banquet in Washington:

"The Germans, before long, will be heartily sick of kaiserism. If you could take a census of the German opinion of kaiserism even today, I

opinion of Raiserish even today, a guess it would be like the editor's census of matrimony.

"An editor, thinking to please his lady readers, sent out postcards to the married men of the town with the query, 'Why did you marry?'

"The answers he got were of the following description:

The answers he got were of the following description:

"That's what I've been trying for twenty-three years to find out.—Job.'

"I wanted a companion of the opposite sex. She's opposite, all right.—Henry Peck.'

"Her father thought eight years' counting was about long anough.

courting was about long enough.—

"This is the question all my friends keep asking me.—Patient Sufferer.'
"Please don't stir me up.—Father of Eleven."

Peers and Potatoes.

THE late Senator Tillman abominated the kaiser's aristocratic

"The aristocrats," he said in an interview, "were made to rule, and the common people to obey-that is the kaiser's creed. Why, the kaiser said one day that it was painful to him to fight the French army because officers were not aristocrats.

"A pork packer said to the kaiser t Kiel-but his speech had no ef-

fect—
"'Aristocrats, your majesty, are like
potato plants. The only good thing
belonging to them is underground.'"